IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A fabric ~~garment selected from the group consisting of a fabric~~ surgical mask ~~and a fabric neckband,~~ having a pocket therein and ~~having~~ a microphone removably contained in the pocket of the fabric surgical mask ~~garment~~.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Currently amended) A fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask as claimed in claim 1 adapted to be worn in a medical operating environment.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Currently amended) A fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein said microphone is a larynx microphone.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Currently amended) A fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a contact electrically connected to the microphone disposed at an exterior surface of the fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask, and a cable having a mating contact, engageable with said contact, for transmitting signals from said microphone to a remote location.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

5. (Currently amended) A fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a cable connected to said microphone for transmitting signals from said microphone to a remote location, said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask having an interior and an exterior and said microphone being disposed in the interior of said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask, and said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask having

an opening through which said cable proceeds from said interior of said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask to said exterior of said ~~garment~~ fabric surgical mask.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Currently amended) A fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a wireless transmitter electrically connected to said microphone for wirelessly transmitting signals generated by said microphone to a remote location.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (Currently amended) A fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein said microphone includes an electrical filter circuit for suppressing disturbing signals caused by noises picked up by said microphone, said disturbing signals being contained in electrical signals generated by said microphone from voice signals.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Currently amended) A communication system comprising:

a fabric ~~garment selected from the group consisting of a fabric~~ surgical mask ~~and a fabric neckband~~, having a pocket therein;

a microphone removably contained in the pocket of said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask;

a reception unit disposed remote from said microphone; and

a signal transmitting arrangement for transmitting signals, corresponding to voice signals picked up by said microphone, from said microphone to said reception unit.

9. (Original) A communication system as claimed in claim 8 wherein said signal transmitting arrangement comprises a cable electrically connecting said microphone and said reception unit.

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Currently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 8 wherein said signal transmitting arrangement comprises a wireless transmitter electrically connected to said microphone and located at said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask, and a wireless receiver located at said reception unit for receiving signals from said wireless transmitter.

11. (Previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 8 wherein said reception unit includes means for transmitting electrical signals produced by said microphone, corresponding to voice signals, into at least one control signal for operating at least one medical-technical device.

12. (Original) A communication system as claimed in claim 8 wherein said reception unit includes at least one electrical filter circuit for suppressing disturbing signals caused by noises, which are contained in electrical signals generated by the microphone from voice signals.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (Currently amended) A method for controlling a medical-technical device comprising the steps of:

integrating a microphone into a pocket of a fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask;

speaking voice commands into said microphone, which are converted into electrical signals by said microphone;

communicating said electrical signals to a reception unit located remotely from said microphone; and

from said reception unit, producing control signals for controlling at least one medical-technical device located remote from said microphone.

14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15 has been cancelled.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13 comprising the step of employing a larynx microphone as said microphone.

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the step of transmitting said signals comprises electrically connecting a contact to said microphone and making said contact accessible at an exterior surface of said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask, connecting a mating contact at a first end of an electrical cable to said contact, and connecting an opposite end of said cable to said reception unit, and transmitting said signals via said cable to said reception unit.

Claim 18 has been amended as follows:

18. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 comprising ~~wherein the step of integrating said microphone in said fabric garment comprises~~ disposing said microphone in said pocket in an interior of said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask, and wherein the step of transmitting said signals comprises providing an electrical cable in electrical connection with said microphone and guiding said cable through an opening in said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask from the

interior of said fabric ~~garment~~ surgical mask to an exterior of said ~~garment~~ fabric surgical mask, and connecting an opposite end of said cable to said reception unit.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the step of transmitting signals comprises providing a wireless transmitter in electrical connection with said microphone, providing a wireless receiver at said reception unit, and wirelessly transmitting said signals produced by said microphone from said transmitter to said receiver.

20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13 comprising electrically filtering signals from said microphone to suppress disturbing signals therein produced by noises picked up by said microphone.